

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /082 W

----- 086925

R 161320 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8245

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 0804

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, SL

SUBJECT: ELECTION RESULTS

REF FREETOWN 0790

1. NANCY STEELE LOST THE FREETOWN CENTRAL I ELECTION TO N. A. P. BUCK, WHO RECEIVED 6328 VOTES TO NANCY'S 3975. HER SUPPORTERS ARE CLAIMING THAT V. P. S. I. KOROMA RIGGED THE ELECTION BY TRUCKING IN APC STALWARTS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS TO VOTE FOR BUCK AND USING PARTY THUGS TO PREVENT SOME OF HER SUPPORTERS FROM GOING TO THE POLLS.

2. THE BALLOT BOX STUFFING CHARGE PROBABLY IS TRUE. THERE WERE 3660 MORE VOTES CAST IN CENTRAL I YESTERDAY THAN IN THE 1967 ELECTION OR AN INCREASE OF 58 PERCENT. IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST YESTERDAY HAD BEEN EQUAL TO THOSE CAST IN 1967, NANCY'S 3675 VOTES WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO QUVE HER A COMFORTABLE 1000 PLUS VITORY MARGIN. THE 58 PERCENT INCREASE IN VOTER TURNOUT YESTERDAY PARTICULARLY IS SUSPECT WHEN COMPARED TO THE TURNOUT ON FRIDAY, WHEN THE NUMBER OF VOTES CAST IN THE

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TWO WESTERN AREA RACES WERE DOWN 12 TO 20 PERCENT FROM 1967.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LUKE AND BUCK WERE ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT, THE REALLY BIG WINNER APPEARS TO BE S. I. KOROMA, WHO INSURED THAT THE CANDIDATES BACKED BY KAMARA- TAYLOR SUFFERED CRUSHING DEFEATS. A NUMBER OF LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE KOROMA DEFINITELY NOW HAS THE UPPER HAND IN HIS RIVALRY WITH KAMARA- TAYLOR AND WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE WERE GIVEN SOME LESSER PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WHETHER THERE IS ANY VALIDITY TO THIS SPECULATION SHOULD BE KNOWN SHORTLY FOR THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE HIS NEW CABINET SOMETIME LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW.
OLSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FREETO00804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhdr.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 FREETOWN 0790
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980217
Subject: ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, SL, PINT
To: ABIDJAN
AF
CONAKRY
LONDON
MONROVIA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005